

INTERAGENCY SUMMARY 2015 CRITICAL USE NOMINATION FOR METHYL BROMIDE

On January 24, 2013, the U.S. submitted its nomination for 2015 critical uses of methyl bromide (MeBr) under the Montreal Protocol. The U.S. continues to support growers as they complete transition from this ozone depleting substance, while meeting our commitment to the international effort to protect the ozone layer.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the U.S. Department of State have worked over the years with agricultural stakeholders to implement the Critical Use Exemption (CUE) program which allows users with critical needs for methyl bromide additional time to identify and implement safer alternatives. For 2015, the U.S. nominated California strawberries, dried cured pork products, and fresh dates. This year's nomination resulted from an intensive and rigorous technical assessment as government partners met with agricultural stakeholders, researchers and fumigators, and evaluated data and current research to establish internationally defensible basis for our nominations.

Our work in this area is ongoing. The U.S. government is committed to use flexibility in the Protocol's existing mechanisms as an avenue to address changes in national circumstance that affect transition to alternatives to MeBr. The U.S. government agencies involved will work together with stakeholders in a transparent way to gather and analyze data to ensure that there are no technical challenges or market implications that we have not fully considered, and will explore the variety of tools available to us to address documented concerns in a timely way. If warranted by additional scientific assessment the U.S. government may pursue supplemental CUEs for 2015.

In addition, the U.S. government has agreed to pursue domestic discussions concerning access to the MeBr stockpile in the U.S. as well as potential processes to address emergency use of MeBr, consistent with the treaty, and recognizing that emergency uses are not intended as a replacement for CUE uses.